

CLASSIFICATION BY SOURCE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
REF ID: A600200337  
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FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OF RADIO BROADCASTS

PERIOD  
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COULD BY USER	DATE OF INFORMATION
SUBJECT Radio Networks	
HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical	DATE DISK 19 Oct 1948
WHERE PUBLISHED USSR	NO. OF PAGES 3
DATE PUBLISHED March 1948	SUPPLEMENT TO
LANGUAGE Russian	

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SOURCE IDENTIFICATION Radio, No 5, 1948. (FDB Ref Abs 78792 -- Translation specifically requested.)

LET US IMPROVE THE ORGANIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL RADIO NETWORK

The radio centers of the Ministry of Communications are very important in the radio network of the Soviet Union. However, there are in addition, many so-called "departmental" radio stations, comprising about half the number of total radio centers, which belong to other ministries, industries, and other organizations. The broadcasts of these latter very rarely reach far due to their distance from trunk lines and the powerful broadcasting stations.

Nevertheless, it is very important that the population of the back country have regular contact with Moscow, since the radio is the only means for their cultural and political advancement.

In addition, these departmental radio centers are not interested in expanding their network, and are hampered by poor and inadequate equipment. For example, in Ivanovo Oblast the majority of these departmental stations are equipped with obsolete equipment. The Gor'kiy, Vladimir and Sverdlovsk Chief stations are in no better position. Because of poor equipment and ineffective maintenance, there were 550 inoperative radio centers in the USSR on 1 January 1948. Numerous agricultural communities in the Ukraine, Altay Kray, and Moscow Oblast were without radio service.

All these facts will tend to delay plans for radiofication of the USSR. In 1946 and 1947 the Ministry for Agriculture installed only 800 complete radio receivers. The plan for development of the radio network in 1947 was only 12 percent fulfilled. Industrial Unions fulfilled only 50 percent of their radiofication plan in 1947.

These facts are discouraging and indicate a need for better organization in developing the plan for the radiofication of the Soviet Union.

The 1948 plans for radiofication are far reaching. One third of the radios to be installed are earmarked for Motor Tractor Stations, Sovkhoz's and Kolkhoz's. Large supplies of wire are on hand, but they must be transported to areas where they will be most effectively used. The training level of many of the personnel of these departmental stations is low and radio improvement. Therefore the industrial unions and other organizations are urged to institute a series of courses designed to improve the technical qualifications of their radio personnel. It must be borne in mind that the best source of qualified personnel will be the radio amateurs.

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The Ministry of Communications is charged with the duty of maintaining the efficiency of equipment. In many respects, however, this program does not operate well. There are many radio centers which have not been inspected for several years.

Future plans require not only the establishment of new radio centers but also the full utilization of the presently established centers. To accomplish the latter, it is first necessary to repair the existing equipment, replace obsolete equipment and, above all, raise the technological levels of the operating personnel. The Ministry of Trade is charged with the duty of supplying the equipment for the radioification plan, and of establishing convenient outlets for the supplies. Thus it will be possible for any farmer to make a short journey to the nearest large city and obtain all equipment necessary to maintain his radio set in working order.

The Section for Propaganda and Agitation MK VKP(b) had a meeting at which Yevetko, director of the Moscow Oblast Radio Network submitted a paper on the work of radio centers and their primary duties.

1947 was a year during which there was much work in the re-establishment and development of the Moscow Oblast Radio Network. About 30,000 radio receivers were installed. Of that number, some 16,000 were placed in the homes of agricultural workers. It is also important, however, that loudspeakers and distributor stations in cities be improved as the agricultural network comprises only about 24 percent of the total Soviet radio networks.

Plans call for a great increase in the radioification of agricultural communities in Moscow Oblast in 1948. The workers are working to fulfill their assignments. However, this alone is not enough. The other ministries must also cooperate and fulfill their radioification plans.

At present 262 radio centers are being built in Moscow Oblast. Of these, 37 are under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, and 55 are under jurisdiction of the VTsSFS and the Central Committee for Industrial Unions. It would appear that, because of the large available stock piles, the Ministry of Agriculture should lead in this plan for radioification. This unfortunately is far from true.

A similar situation is found in those centers operated by the Central Committee for Industrial Unions. It would appear that the main duty of these unions should be to radiofy various industrial enterprises, workers' quarters etc. However, most of the large industries have considered their radio network as mere supplementary activities, e.g., the largest radio center in Perovo, was not modernized for a number of years. As a result, the equipment has failed and many thousands of the radio points are inoperative.

This does not mean, however, that all the industries are guilty of permitting their radio stations to become inoperative, e.g., the Kupavna cotton factory in 1947 completely overhauled its radio system. Consequently, 1,150 radio points now have good radio service.

The inhabitants of Kolkbcz imenoi 9 January in Lenin Oblast constructed and equipped a radio center and strung lines to each of the worker's houses. The radio centers of the settlements of Khovrino, Khimkiy Rayon, the Lyuborets factory for Farm Machinery, and others are also working efficiently.

Special criticism was directed against the Moscow department of SuyuzTekhRadio for failing to perform its duties with regard to the radioification of farms. One of the weak points of SuyuzTekhRadio is reluctance to place large orders with city outlets, e.g., it did not order certain needed receivers, because the cost was 250 rubles.

Several people, among them Alaverdov, Chief of the Radio Center, Shaft No 13, Krasnoarmeyskogol' Trust, Belyayev, and others stressed the need for some kind of training program for radio personnel.

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The greatest fault in these departmental radio networks is the lack of proper equipment for the lines, and especially of spare parts. Some of the radio workers have suggested that a main base be established in Moscow, where they would be able to obtain any and all the required equipment for the establishment and maintenance of departmental radio networks. Comrade Grinbaum, Mytishchinsk Radio Center, discloses the fact that architects and carpenters do not attach much importance to the radiofication plan. All in all, the radio stations and radio networks under the cognizance of the departmental organizations are in a much worse technological state than radio networks under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Communications.

Comrade Asoyan, Section for Propaganda and Agitation MK VKP(b), states that there is actually no reason why these departmental and industrial radio networks cannot be as good if not better than the networks of the Ministry of Communications. To accomplish this, it is necessary to mobilize the workers of the agricultural and industrial communities. Soon industry will once again be turning out large quantities of radio receivers. It is up to qualified personnel to help the farmers install antenna and to hook up these sets.

Local radio centers must strive for development of the radiofication plan. It is hoped that this criticism will prod the departmental radio centers into activity and force them to do their job.

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